

TROPICAL CYCLONE 25-82

Tropical Cyclone 25-82 developed from an area of loosely organized convection in the central Arabian Sea. Although satellite images indicated that the convection and cloud system organization were increasing, shipboard synoptic reports were the first data to accurately describe the low-level circulation center. At 042000Z November, a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued when nearby shipboard observations indicated pressures near 1004 mb and winds of 20 kt (10 m/sec), confirming intensity estimates from earlier satellite data. Satellite and synoptic data during the subsequent 12-hour period indicated that development was continuing, prompting the first warning on Tropical Cyclone 25-82 at 050200Z.

Tropical Cyclone 25-82 slowly consolidated during the initial 24-hour period in warning status. Based on guidance from virtually every forecast aid, the first

six warnings anticipated a movement toward the west-northwest. However, once the system organized and satellite fixes became more consistent, it became evident that Tropical Cyclone 25-82 was not moving westward as forecast. In the same time frame, a break developed in the mid-level subtropical ridge, which lay along 23N. As height falls occurred across the northern Arabian Sea coast, the tropical cyclone responded by accelerating toward the northeast and intensifying. Tropical Cyclone 25-82 continued to deepen until landfall at 081000Z near the Indian port city of Veraval (20.9N 70.4E). Veraval was particularly hard hit as the cyclone moved onshore with sustained winds of 90 kt (46 m/sec).

Once overland, and deprived of the low-level moist layer over water, Tropical Cyclone 25-82 rapidly dissipated, leaving in its wake at least 50,000 homes damaged or destroyed and a death toll in excess of 341.

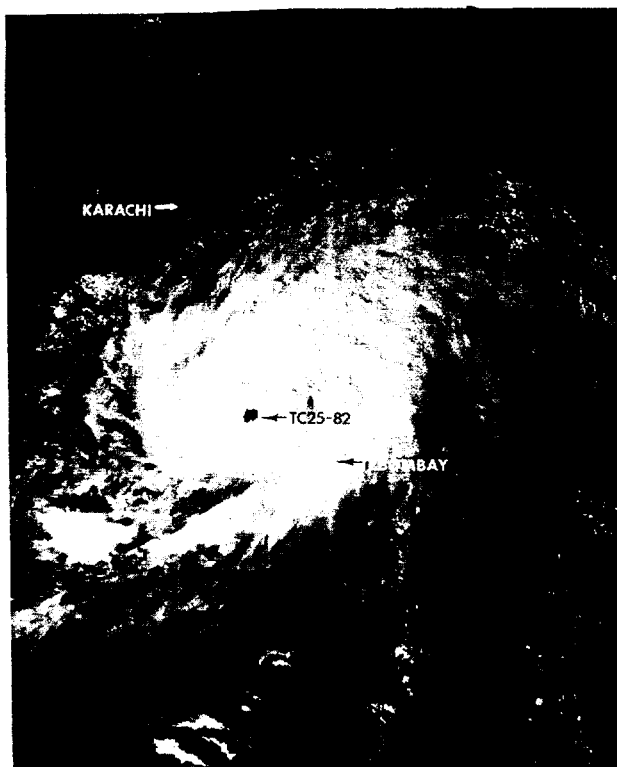


Figure 3-33-1. Tropical Cyclone 25-82 is at peak intensity with maximum winds of 90 kt (46 m/sec) and just making landfall on India's northwestern coast. 080921Z November (NOAA 7 visual imagery from AFGWC Offutt AFB, Nebraska)